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with actual persecution of those Christians who had a sterner sense of duty than himself.

It is manifest, however, from what took place at a synod of bishops held in Cirta in 305 that many of the natural leaders of the African Church had quailed before the persecution of Diocletian. They had assembled, under the presidency of Secundus, Bishop of Tigisis and Primate of Numidia, in order to fill the vacant see of Cirta. Secundus opened the proceedings by inviting all present to clear themselves of the charge of having surrendered their Holy Books, and began to put the question directly to each in turn. Donatus of Mascula returned an evasive answer, and said that he was responsible only to God. Many pleaded that they had substituted other books for the Scriptures; Victor of Russicas alone confessed that he had handed over the Four Gospels. "Valentinianus, the Curator, himself compelled me to send them," he said; "pardon me this fault, even as God pardons me." Then came the turn of Purpurius, Bishop of Limata. Secundus accused him not of being a *traditor*, but of the murder of two of his nephews. Purpurius stormed with rage. He vowed that he would not be browbeaten, and declared that Secundus was no better than his fellows and had purchased his own immunity, like the best of them, by surrendering the Scriptures. As for murdering his nephews, the charge was true. "I did kill them," he said, "and I kill all who stand in my way." This candid avowal seems to have occasioned no surprise among the members of this extraordinary synod; they were all too indignant with Secundus